



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Nguyen *et al.* Art Unit : 1639
Serial No. : 10/677,977 Examiner : Teresa D. Wessendorf
Filed : October 2, 2003 Conf. No. : 9061
Cust. No. : 77202
Title : METHODS OF GENERATING AND SCREENING FOR PROTEASES
WITH ALTERED SPECIFICITY

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED
EXAMINATION PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.114**

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment, which is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 11, 2008, is filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-captioned application. Entry of the following amendments and consideration of the following remarks respectfully are requested. An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this preliminary amendment and RCE.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"
"Express Mail" Mailing Label Number EM 315454292 US
Date of Deposit: June 11, 2009
I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.



Steven Dennis